

# FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

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## **50th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE FUND**

1897 - 1947

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Evangelical Lutheran Synod of  
Manitoba and other Provinces

# 1897 - 1947

In 1888 the first call for a Lutheran minister was sent from a few faithful families who had settled in Winnipeg, to the Canada Synod. Like the plea of the Macedonians during the time of the Apostles the call was heard and in 1888, the Rev. F. Veit, then president of the Canada Synod, came to Winnipeg to visit the pioneers. He promised to send them a pastor and in February, 1889, the Rev. H. C. Schmieder arrived in Winnipeg and soon was serving the scattered congregations as far west as Danmore, Alta.

Within two years three more missionaries came to serve the congregations throughout the West and by 1891 had reached as far as Spruce Grove, Alta. Thus four men were serving an area of almost 1,000 miles in length, from Winnipeg to west of Edmonton.

In 1890 the work was taken over by the Home Mission Committee of the General Council, but as this field was so far removed from the church at large, it was deemed advisable that this area should have its own synodical organization to bring and hold together the widely separated units.

Therefore, on July 22, 1897, the Northwest Conference of the Canada Synod, meeting in the parsonage at Winnipeg, decided to organize a synod for its territory. Thus came into being the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Manitoba and other Provinces, which had, at the time of organization, seven parishes with 13 congregations and 27 preaching points served by five pastors.

The small synod went through difficult years due to lack of finances and an inability to obtain sufficient ministers to serve the many prospective congregations. In 1911 the first steps were taken to relieve the acute shortage of pastors, by the decision to build a seminary in the west to train men for the ministry.

The cornerstone for the first building was laid in 1914, and the building was dedicated in July 1915, at Saskatoon, Sask. The first candidates graduated from the seminary were ordained to the ministry at the Silver Jubilee Convention of Synod in Winnipeg, in 1922.

During the 1920-30 era large numbers of settlers emigrated to Western Canada, and through the efforts of Immigration Boards were settled in places where the church could serve them and

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organize Mission stations, with graduates from the seminary being placed as soon as they were ordained.

But hardly had these new settlers become established when the hungry thirties were upon us, and the work of the Synod and the Seminary was carried on under extreme financial difficulties. However, thanks to the assistance of the Board of American Missions and the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church in America, disaster was averted and the church was able to carry on.

Thus, despite all difficulties, the faith our fathers had in the growth of the Church in the West has borne fruit and today we have 118 congregations and 4 preaching places served by 51 pastors.

## FAITH IN THE FUTURE

Have WE as strong a faith in the future of our church in Western Canada as our fathers had when they organized the Synod?

Since the organization of Synod, fifty years ago, we have received financial assistance from the mother church, without which we could not have grown to our present stature. What of the future? Are we going to be content to sit back and expect the church at large to continue the heavy financial assistance or are we going to express our gratitude to God and the Mother Church by making a determined effort to stand on our own feet?

If our Synod is to take full advantage of the opportunities still existent in Western Canada and if our Seminary is to compare favorably with that of other Christian Colleges and Seminaries in the West, adequately fulfilling what is expected of it, we must improve and expand its facilities at Saskatoon.

The first step in this program is the erection of a new dormitory. With this in mind, our Synod, at its meeting in Saskatoon in July, 1946, decided to give to the members of our congregations an opportunity to express their thanks to God for his bountiful goodness and to reaffirm the faith of our fathers, by the estab-

lishing of a Jubilee Fund. It has set as its goal a minimum objective of \$70,000 towards the cost of a new dormitory.

We feel that our Lutherans throughout the West have as strong a faith in the future as our fathers had and that they will give concrete proof of their faith by subscribing generously to the Jubilee Fund.

Why not do it right NOW? Please fill in the handy card enclosed and mail it with your GIFT to—

**L U T H E R A N J U B I L E E F U N D,**

**1324 Avenue B, North, Saskatoon, Sask.**